

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 32-41, 44-55 and renumbered claims 56-61 without prejudice.
Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 10-14, 22-25, 27, 28, 42, and 43, and add new claims 62-65, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of routing for a message via an IMS system comprising the steps of:~~

receiving a message at an ~~I-CSCF~~ interrogating call session control function;

obtaining address information for a network function for which said message is intended; and

sending said message to said network function in accordance with said address information.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said message is sent directly to the network function via a proxy or gateway element.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said obtaining step comprises querying a database.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said database comprises a ~~SLF~~ subscription location function.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said database provides said address information for said network function.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said database provides information identifying a further database.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said further database comprises one of a ~~HSS, UMS or SSR~~ home subscriber server, user mobility server or service and subscription repository.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said further database contains said address information.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said further database contains configuration information of said network function.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of determining if said message is for an ~~IMS-IP~~ multimedia core network subsystem target or a ~~non-IMS-IP~~ multimedia core network subsystem target.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said steps of

claim 1 are followed if it is determined that said message is for a non-IMS IP multimedia core network subsystem target.

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing a message from a network function via an IMS system comprising the steps of:~~

originating a message from an network function;

determining the address of a proxy entity to which said message is to be sent;

routing said message to said proxy entity; and

routing said message from said proxy entity to an entry point of a target network.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said entry point is in the same network as said AS network function.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said entry point is in a different network to said AS network function.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said originating step comprises originating one of a session and a transaction.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said determining step comprises the step of querying one of a database, table, file and a list.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said determining step comprises determining the proxy entity from information contained in said function.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the step of determining the entry point to which said message is to be routed.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said proxy entity is arranged to determine the target entry point to which said message is to be sent.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said proxy entity is arranged to determine the target entry point to which said message is to be sent by accessing a database.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said database comprises a DNS.

22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing a message from a network function via an IMS system comprising the steps of:~~

originating a message from a network function;

determining the ~~I-CSCF~~ an interrogating call session control function to which said message is to be sent;

routing said message directly to said ~~I-CSCF~~ interrogating call session control function if said interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ is in a same network as said network function.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing a message from a network function via an IMS system comprising the steps of:~~

originating a message from a network function;

determining the ~~I-CSCF~~ interrogating call session control function to which said message is to be sent;

routing said message directly to said interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ if said interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ is in a trusted network.

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing a message from a network function via an IMS system, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~sending~~ receiving a request from the network function ~~to at an I-CSCF~~ interrogating call session control function;

determining at the interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ the ~~S-CSCF~~ serving call session control function to which a message from said network function is to be sent; and

sending said message to the determined ~~S-CSCF~~serving call session control function.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said network function comprises a ~~PLS~~presence list server.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said determining step comprises querying a database.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said determining step comprises querying a ~~HSS~~home subscriber server.

28. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing a message from a first network function via an IMS system, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~sending~~receiving a request from the ~~a~~ first network function to ~~at~~ an ~~I-CSCF~~interrogating call session control function;

determining at the interrogating call session control function~~I-CSCF~~ a second network function to which a message from said first network function is to be sent; and

sending said message directly from the interrogating call session control function~~I-CSCF~~ to said second network function.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said network

function comprises a network entity.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said network function comprises one of application server, server and gateway.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said network function provides an adaptation functionality.

32-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of routing for a message via an IMS system~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~sending~~ receiving a message ~~to at an I-CSCF~~ interrogating call session control function from a network function based on address information obtained by said network function;

obtaining address information at said interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ for said message; and

sending said message from said interrogating call session control function ~~I-CSCF~~ in accordance with said address information.

43. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network function comprises a server, said server being arranged to send a message for at least one

user via a ~~S-CSCF~~serving call session control function and to send a message for a least one user via an ~~I-CSCF~~interrogating call session control function.

44-61. (Cancelled)

62. (New) An interrogating call session control function comprising:

means for receiving a message;

means for obtaining address information for a network function for which said message is intended; and

means for sending said message to said network function in accordance with said address information.

63. (New) An interrogating call session control function comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a message;

an address information entity configured to obtain address information for a network function for which said message is intended; and

a transmitter configured to transmit said message to said network function in accordance with said address information.

64. (New) An interrogating call session control function as claimed in claim 65, wherein said address information entity is configured to query a database.

65. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, said computer program controlling a computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving a message at an interrogating call session control function;

obtaining address information for a network function for which said message is intended; and

sending said message to said network function in accordance with said address information.